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OO RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM  
DE RUEHML #0823 0940835  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
O 030835Z APR 08  
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0296  
INFO RUEHZS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS IMMEDIATE  
RHHMUNA/CDRUSPACOM HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS MANILA 000823

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SENSITIVE  
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DEPT FOR EAP, EAP/RSP, G, IO/RHS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KDEM](#) [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [RP](#)

SUBJECT: PHILIPPINES WEIGHING NEXT STEPS ON ASIA PACIFIC  
DEMOCRACY PARTNERSHIP

REF: A. STATE 28071- (APDP NON-PAPER FOR CIRCULATION)

- [1](#)B. 07 MANILA 3620- (PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT PLEASSED  
TO ATTEND APDP)
- [1](#)C. 07 STATE 151024- (ADVANCING THE DEMOCRACY AGENDA)
- [1](#)D. 07 MANILA 3564- (FOREIGN MINISTER WELCOMES APDP  
PROPOSAL)

[1](#)1. (SBU) The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs reviewed with great interest the Asia Pacific Democracy Partnership (APDP) non-paper (ref A). Acting Assistant Secretary for American Affairs Lourdes Yparraguirre shared a

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positive assessment of the preliminary working document during an April 2 meeting with Polcouns. Yparraguirre, who is also serving as Acting Executive Director of the U.S. Division, thanked the U.S. for encouraging action and boosting the initiative in a region where the Philippines would welcome more fully democratic neighbors. She added, echoing comments reported in ref B, that the Philippine government supports the mission of the APDP but lacks resources to host meetings and staff to plan them. This shortcoming will be exacerbated, Yparraguirre noted, by the Global Forum on Migration and Development to be hosted here October 2008 and the Non-Aligned Movement Non-Ministerial Meeting on interfaith issues slated for July 2009. She said that the Philippines remains open to the timing and location of next APDP meeting, and asked about the number and size of delegations that might attend the next APDP meeting. Yparraguirre pledged to discuss with senior leadership in the DFA the extent of Philippine involvement in the proposed meeting.

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